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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT

TOPIC Volkspolizei Bereitschaft in Weissenfels

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 4 April 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. It was learned on 10 February that a Soviet unit stationed in Weissenfels recently placed four T-34 tanks at the disposal of the Volkspolizei.

2. On 30 January, Soviet Lieutenant Colonel Vangalov, (fnu) together with German VP officers, inspected the former engineer training site on the Saale River to determine its suitability for VP training purposes. Vangalov was head of the Soviet liaison staff with the VP Bereitschaft in Weissenfels and wore a VP uniform. The leases of German small land holders in the area of the engineer training site were renounced without notice by Weissenfels municipal authorities on 10 January.

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3. In February, the VP Bereitschaft in Weissenfels numbered about 1,500 police. The unit trained NCOs and company-grade officers who, having completed an 8 to 12-week infantry training course, were reassigned to other VP posts. Graduates were transferred to Potsdam, Schwerin, Torgau, Magdeburg and, in early February, to Meiningen. \* About 25 VP officers holding a rank equivalent to that of a second lieutenant arrived at the VP Bereitschaft from Prora on 15 February. The municipal administration of Weissenfels ordered the local housing office to provide 75 apartments for VP officers in February.

4. It was definitely determined in February that the Soviet officers attached to Lieutenant Colonel Vangalov's liaison staff with the VP Bereitschaft in Weissenfels were changed after a short period of training, apparently receiving appointments at other VP posts. Six officers who arrived between 1 and 15 February had VP uniforms tailored. The officers on Vangalov's staff received German language instruction, the second language course having started on 15 February. The instructor, a German VP Oberkommissar, emphasized the learning of German technical terms pertaining to weapons, equipment, and vehicles, and terms relative to interrogation and report techniques.

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5. 10 to 12 VP officers of the local VP Bereitschaft have been instructed daily

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in telecommunications procedure since 15 February.

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6. On 2 March, the barracks installation on Zeitzerstrasse, Weissenfels, was occupied to capacity by a VP unit. No heavy weapons were seen in the billeting area. VP Rat Stoewer, (fnu), and VP Rat Rosbach, (fnu), were identified with the unit.

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the VP personnel at the post would move to a summer camp, together with the Soviet troops stationed in Weissenfels at the end of March or the beginning of April. \*\*\*

\* Comment. The location of a new VP Dienststelle (VPD), organized into the usual four Kommandos and seven Sonderabteilungen, in the barracks installation of the former 5th VP Bereitschaft on Zeitzerstrasse, Weissenfels, was previously reported. The statement in the present report that the organization is an infantry training unit conducting 8 to 12-week courses is therefore discredited. The reassignment of officers and NCOs probably referred to the time when the former 5th VP Bereitschaft was deactivated.

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\*\* Comment. The departure of units of the 57th Gds Itz Rifle from Weissenfels for field exercises was observed in early March 1951.

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However, joint exercises by Soviet units and German VP personnel have not been observed and appear improbable so shortly after the reorganization of the Volkspolizei.

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